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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS IRAQ-KUWAIT OBSERVATION MISSION

Addendum

1. In paragraph 27 of my report of 2 October 1991 (S/23106) on the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), I informed the Security Council that on that day the Iraqi authorities had issued strict instructions to their police to stop civilians from collecting mines in the demilitarized zone (DMZ). However, the Chief Military Observer has since reported that on 2 October 1991 at least 60 Iraqi civilians, with 8 trucks and 40 pick-up vehicles, were observed by UNIKOM collecting mines at a location 15 kilometres south of observation post S-3. Most of the activity was on the Kuwaiti side of the border, both inside and outside the DMZ. Iraqi police, when contacted by UNIKOM observers, said that they had no orders to stop the collection of mines.

2. On 3 October 1991, no mine collecting activity was observed by UNIKOM. On 4 October, however, the Mission observed a resumption of such activity. Some 50 Iraqi civilians, with 13 trucks and 9 pick-up vehicles, were again observed collecting mines 15 kilometres south of observation post S-3. Once more, they were in the Iraqi and Kuwaiti parts of the DMZ, as well as in Kuwaiti territory outside it. Also, three trucks loaded with mines and four pick-up vehicles with some 30 civilians were observed travelling south at the edge of the DMZ in Kuwait territory, approximately 16 kilometres north-east of observation post S-4.

3. On 3 October 1991 the Chief Military Observer again raised the matter with the Iraqi authorities at Baghdad. He urged them to take immediate action to stop any civilian from crossing the border into Kuwait and, in general, to prevent civilians from undertaking this dangerous practice. The Iraqi authorities expressed astonishment that it was still continuing and assured the Chief Military Observer that strict instructions had been given to the police authorities to prevent mine collecting by civilians. They said that they would take urgent measures to rectify the situation. They also requested UNIKOM to provide them with all dates and locations when Iraqi civilians had

been observed collecting mines in the DMZ. This information was delivered in writing today, 4 October 1991.

4. I have instructed the Chief Military Observer to continue to follow this matter closely and I shall keep the Security Council informed, as necessary.